



City of Taunton

Reopening Related Information

COVID 19/Coronavirus

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The Baker-Polito Administration announced a four-phase approach to reopening the Massachusetts economy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and published Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards that will apply across all sectors and industries once reopening begins. The goal of the phased reopening, based on public health guidance, is to methodically allow certain businesses, services, and activities to resume, while protecting public health and limiting a resurgence of new COVID-19 cases.

- Phase 1 will be “Start:” limited industries resume operations with severe restrictions □
Phase 2 will be “Cautious:” additional industries resume operations with restrictions and capacity limits
- Phase 3 will be “Vigilant:” additional industries resume operations with guidance □
Phase 4 will be the “New Normal:” development of vaccine and/or therapy enables resumption of new normal
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Mayor O'Connell has established a reopening committee for the City. The committee has been meeting weekly to prepare the City for safe reopening. You can also submit questions and comments as part of the Reopening Massachusetts effort to methodically reopen the economy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Each one of the submitted forms are read and responded to by the Reopening Advisory Committee. <https://www.mass.gov/forms/submit-questions-and-comments-about-reopening-massachusetts>

Phase 1:

Effective Monday May, 18 and May 25

The first phase that began Monday May, 18, manufacturing and construction can reopen provided they follow standards that will curb the spread of Coronavirus. Places of worship may continue services if they can follow social distancing. Outdoor services are strongly encouraged. Read more here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>

Phase 2:

Effective Monday June, 8 and June 15

Retail businesses, restaurants, hotels and other personal services such as nail salons and day spas can reopen with restrictions. Hospitals and community health centers are allowed to provide less-urgent preventative care, including teeth cleanings and certain elective procedures. Hospitals and community health centers are allowed to provide less-urgent preventative care, including teeth cleanings and certain elective procedures. More recreation is allowed to restart, including campgrounds, playgrounds, public pools, athletic fields and courts and youth sports in a limited fashion. Read more here:

<https://www.mass.gov/infodetails/reopening-massachusetts>

With restaurants allowed to offer outdoor dining as soon as June 8, 2020, the City is ready to assist you in expanding/creating outdoor dining opportunities. You can find an application and guidelines for you to complete to request the use of expanded outdoor space for your business. City staff members are available and are ready to assist all applicants with reviewing and approving outdoor expansion plans. Please select the appropriate application for your plans and return the application to us as soon as possible. Once we receive your application, we will reach out to you directly to review your proposed plans.

<https://www.taunton-ma.gov/license-commission/pages/temporary-outdoor-diningguidance-and-applications>

Phase 3:

Part One Effective Monday, July 6th, 2020. Part Two effective on a date To Be Announced. Bars, casinos, gyms, museums and others in the entertainment and arts industries can reopen. All other business activities can resume except for nightclubs and large venues. More recreation is allowed to restart, including youth sorts with games and tournaments, though crowd sizes will be limited. Read more here: <https://www.mass.gov/infodetails/reopening-massachusetts>

Phase 4:

Effective upon the development of vaccines and treatment

Full resumption of activity in the "new normal," including travel, all outdoor recreation and activities as well as events in large venues and nightclubs. People are still urged to wear face coverings, maintain physical distance and proper hygiene. Read more here:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>

Accessing Personal Protection Equipment For Businesses

- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is acutely aware of rapidly expanding needs for personal protective equipment (PPE) for numerous organizations across the state – including masks, gowns, gloves, and eye protection. PPE resources are limited in the Commonwealth and we must conserve the use of PPE. Currently, DPH and MEMA are only able to serve as a bridge when an entity has a critically low supply. The Commonwealth is not able to supplant the normal supply chain for PPE.
- Reopening: Purchasing Hygienic or Protective Supplies for the Workplace. These resources are provided to help inform employers and employees about supplies needed to return to workplaces, and connect businesses with manufacturers and distributors. In order to operate in Reopening Phase 1 and all future phases, certain supplies are required. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopeningpurchasing-hygienic-or-protective-supplies-for-the-workplace>
- The Department of Public Health (DPH) and the COVID-19 Command Center developed new Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards in consultation with the Reopening Advisory Board. These new standards will apply universally to all workplaces that are open in Phase 1, and are designed to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission to employees and customers during the first phase of reopening, and are applicable to all sectors and industries.
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- These safety standards will be supplemented by sector-specific safety protocols and recommended best practices, which will provide further details and limited exceptions.